

CLAYTON PARKS AND RECREATION COMISSION MEETING
Monday, May 7, 2012
The Center of Clayton – Multipurpose Room C

The following members were present:

Ira Berkowitz	Darryl Higuchi
Brad Bernstein	Andrea Maddox-Dallas
Mimi Deem	Eric Schneider
Michelle Harris	Melanie Tamsky
Laurel Herrington	

Excused/Absent:

Marguerite Garrick

Also Present:

Patty DeForrest
Eric Gruenenfelder

Approval of Minutes: Minutes from the April meeting were approved as written.

Addresses from the Audience: There were no addresses from the audience.

Mr. Higuchi, Mr. Bernstein, and Mr. Praiss all serve on the Clayton School District Board of Education. Mr. Bernstein has a strong interest in continuing to serve on the Parks and Recreation Commission, so Mr. Praiss stepped down. Mr. Bernstein will and Mr. Higuchi will be the Board of Education members who serve on the Commission.

Director's Report:

-Fees & Charges Recommendation for FY 2013 Budget: Ms. DeForrest discussed the fees and charges with the Commission. She noted that it has been three years since fees at the Shaw Park Aquatic Center have increased. There has been a 15% increase in expenditures during this time, primarily due to increased costs associated with commodity, utilities and additional lap swimming hours in the evening and at the end of the season.

Staff review comparative markets when considering proposed fee increases. Resident family rates have remained steady for a long time. The Commission would like to have the resident fee increases phased in because they believe the increase is too large to be passed on to residents at one time. Further, Commission members would like corporate and non-residents pay much more than residents for passes to the Aquatic Center. They believe the pool is crowded and residents should have priority usage. It was also suggested to raise each tier 15% to get caught up on the budget. Ms. DeForrest said raising rates based on the increase in expenditures would not improve the overall deficit but simply catch up with these increased costs. In conclusion, Ms. DeForrest and her staff will compile some new membership rates and bring the recommendations to the June meeting.

The remainder of the fees discussed, including lap lane rental fees, ice rink and tennis center fess were approved by the Commission.

-Oak Knoll Park Project Update: Ms. DeForrest told the Commission she had a meeting with MSD about their proposed plan to address water issues residents on Southmoor and Ridgemoor are experiencing. MSD is proposing a plan that includes a 10 to 14 foot retaining wall. This is different than the original proposal which included wetlands and gently sloping

drop offs. Staff has asked they include a layered wall treatment so it would look better and that MSD could still do the project as wetlands or an interesting landscape treatment. This is part of an overall plan to address the stormwater issues. The overall plan is not the best solution to correct the problem, so MSD has been challenged to come up with a better plan. The City will be asked to give MSD an easement for nearly two acres of land in Oak Knoll Park and is interested in making it an educational showpiece if it is to move forward.

Dog Park Update: The City received approval from State and Federal agencies that was needed in order to move forward with the dog park project. An open house will be held at The Center of Clayton on Thursday, May 24 so attendees can ask questions and offer comments about the project. A mailing will go out to residents living 1,000 feet from Haddington Court. The dog park business plan was distributed to the Commission.

The approximate cost of construction for the dog park will be between \$55,000 and \$80,000. The dog park supporters have been charged with raising the money through private donations for the construction costs. The City will not begin construction until the funds are in place.

Multi-use Facility Design Charrette: Mr. Michael Pratl and Mr. Anselmo Testa from Jacobs Engineering led the multi-use facility portion of the meeting. (See attached PowerPoint for additional details). The presentation they reviewed with the Commission was put together specifically for Ice Rink Public Forum on Thursday, May 17. The multi-use facility discussion included a streetscape plan for the ice rink, whether or not to keep the rink NHL size and possible program ideas for the facility. Lacrosse, soccer, sand volleyball, farmer's market, an event and concert venue, and movie nights were other possible ideas. Various types of coverings for the rink were shown. A program statement needs to be developed to ensure that the facility has programs that meet market demand and generate revenue.

The desired outcome from the public forum is to get more people engaged in the project and to find out what people want the facility to be used for in the off season. Further, the Commission wants to make sure attendees get excited about a cover on the rink and find out exactly what that means. They need to understand that it is a way to protect the ice while respecting those who enjoy seeing ice skaters on the rink when they drive down Brentwood Boulevard. When the presentation came to a close, the Commission expressed their likes and dislikes about the presentation. Overall the presentation works, the commission has asked Mr. Pratl and Mr. Testa to rearrange the order of the slides and focus on the potential coverings for the rink. Programming would be a secondary discussion point.

Old Business / New Business: There was no old or new business to report.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm

Respectfully Submitted By:

Denise Ucinski